Retail and Wholesale Prices of Essential Commodities

663. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI AKHILESH DAS:
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Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by Government to bring down the open market prices of essential commodities like wheat, rice, sugar, edible oils, other foodgrains, pulses and vegetables, during the last four months;

(b) how far the retail and wholesale prices of these articles have come down as a result of these steps and other market forces, indicating month to month prices; and

(c) what further steps are contemplated in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYAPAL SINGH YADAV): (a) The prices of certain essential commodities showed an upward trend during the last few months due to decline in production of these items, adverse climatic conditions, non-availability of sufficient quantities for imports in the international markets. The Government has taken a number of steps to control and stabilise their prices. The import of onions and pulses were placed under OGL at zero import duty and import duty on edible oils have been reduced from 25% to 15%. The Government arranged for the distribution of onions through public distribution agencies at subsidised rate of Rs. 10 per Kg. at Delhi from July, 98. Several State Governments also supplied a number of essential commodities at below market prices through their PDS and cooperative outlets in their States.

(b) The prices of essential commodities have started showing declining trend. A statement showing the month to month prices of selected essential commodities for the last four months (August—November, 98) is given in the statement, *(see* below).

(c) During November, 1996, meetings were held with the Chief Secretaries and Chief Ministers of States and Union Territories to discuss the measures for containing and stabilising the prices of essential commodities. Number of recommendations in this regard have been made for implementation. Necessary prr. ss for the implementatien of these recommendations has commenced.

Statement

Month-end Wholesale and Retail prices of selected essential commodities in Delhi.

	Wholesale (Rs. per qutl.)				Retail		. per	
	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.
Wheat	610	610	630	660	7.00	7.00	7.00	7.00
Rice	850	960	850	950	10.00	11.00	11.00	11.00
Sugar	1500	1500	1500	1500	16.00	16.00	16.00	16.00
Groundnut Oil	5866	7466	7333	6959	57.00	85.00	87.00	82.00
Mustard Oil	4700	--	7066	6593	--	72.00	83.00	76.00
Valtaspati	5000	5200	5000	4866	54.00	55.00	58.00	52.00
Arhar	2400	2500	3300	3300	32.00	37.00	42.00	41.00
Gram	1430	1450	1700	1700	19.00	19.00	20.00	20.00
Potato	--	--	--	--	12.00	13.00	18.00	10.00
Onion	--	--	--	--	22.00	32.00	39.00	24.00

Sources : State Civil Supplies Departments.